Hughes, Charles E [Chairman of District Board, City of New York] re Emil J Baumann claim for discharge

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Chairman of District Board, City of New York re Emil J Baumann claim for discharge

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November 13th, 1917

Hon. Charles E. Hughes,

Chairman of District Board of City of New York.

Dear Sir:

Will you please pardon me for writing to you personally in the matter that I wish to bring to your attention, but it concerns the conduct of our work in the University of Toronto so seriously that I have ventured to lay the matter before you ?

Dr. Emil J. Baumann , serial number 2158, of the local exemption board division 164, has just come to me stating that his claim for discharge has been denied by the District Board of the City of New York. I had given Dr. Baumann a letter when he made request for exemption about ten days ago, and in that letter I stated that his services to us for the next few months are of great importance. He is a lecturer in the department of Biochemistry and has been on our staff now for two years.

In ordinary circumstances I should not have ventured to make such a request of you, but by an exceptional combination of unfortunate events our Chair of Biochemistry and the allied Chair of Physiology are both vacant, and we have been unable to fill them. One professor died while on military service abroad, and the other has been taken by the Dominion Government on National Service at home. We have a large number of medical students who are nearly all preparing for active service at the front, and unless we can retain the services of Dr. Baumann until May 1918 I do not see how we can accomplish the

necessary work for these men in the department of Biochemistry.

I may say at the same time that from this University thousands of men have gone to the front and that practically all our medical students as they have graduated have been or are sent overseas for active service. I may add also that on our grounds there are a number of American soldiers taking training in the Royal Flying Corps preparing for aviation in the American Army. I merely state this to show that when I make such a request it is not because we desire to withdraw Dr. Baumann from military work or that we do not realise the earnestness with which the United States is undertaking to do its part in this terrible struggle. If Dr. Baumann were exempted we should not put forward any claim after next spring.

Apologising again for asking you to consider a detail which I know must be an irregular proceeding, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

CHARLES E. HUGHES
CHAIRMAN

GEORGE L. INGRAHAM
VICE-CHAIRMAN

EDWIN L. GARVIN
SECRETARY

WM. IVES WASHBURN
ASST. SEC'Y

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WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL
DISTRICT BOARD FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK
ROOM 323 FEDERAL BUILDING
(OLD POST OFFICE BLDG.)

NEW YORK, N. Y., November 15th, 1917.

President Robert M. Falconer,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Canada.

My dear President Falconer:

Your letter of November 13th, relating to the case of Dr. Emil J. Baumann, (Local Board No. 164, Serial No. 2158), has been received.

I fully appreciate the exigency and I should be glad to aid you, were it within my power. The application of Dr. Baumann was referred to one of the Standing Committees of the District Board, which reported as follows:

> "There is no doubt whatever that the application is made in entire good faith, and the Local Board to which the papers were forwarded, earnestly recommends that the application be granted if the District Board has power to grant it. We are constrained, however, to advise that the application be denied for lack of power, because upon reading all of the papers, it clearly appears that Mr. Baumann is not engaged in an industry necessary to the maintenance of the military establishment or the effective operation of the military forces, or the maintenance of the national interest during the emergency, within the meaning of those words as used in the Act."

The District Board took action accordingly, and the application was denied.

It is deeply regretted that the University should be put to this inconvenience, but it is the opinion of the District Board that it has no authority to give the discharge you request.

With high regard, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Charles E. Hughes

Chairman.

November 19th, 1917

Hon. Charles E. Hughes,
Chairman, District Board for the City of New York,
823 Federal Building,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Hughes:

I have to acknowledge with thanks your letter with regard to our application on behalf of Dr. Emil J. Baumann. While I greatly appreciate the courtesy and kind consideration with which you have written I do not need to say that it is a great disappointment to us that the District Board has ruled against the application.

We find ourselves facing such a serious situation by the removal of Dr. Baumann that I feel constrained to prosecute the case as far as I may legitimately do, and I am taking the liberty of asking you whether you will be good enough to have my appeal for Dr. Baumann transmitted to the Board with which the final decision of such a case may rest. I hope that you will pardon my insistence but the reason I appeal to you is that I am not able to discover to whom I should go.

Will you allow me in a sentence or two to restate the position:

Dr. Emil J. Baumann (Local Board No. 164, Serial No. 2158) has been our lecturer, which is nearly equivalent to the position of Assistant-professor in the United States, in the Department of

Biochemistry for two years. Owing to the appointment of the head of the department to a very important position by the Dominion Government we are without a head professor and have been unable to secure temporary help. In the allied department of Physiology we are also without a head professor because a year ago Dr. Brodie, who occupied that chair, died suddenly when he was engaged in war service. All the available young men have been called up for active service in some form or other. For three years we have been sending into military work practically all the graduating year in Medicine. In the Department of Biochemistry there are now one hundred medical students in training and they are all being placed upon a reserve corps for military service.

Though the District Council ruled that Dr. Baumann is not engaged in an industry necessary to the maintenance of the military establishment or the effective operation of the military forces, or the maintenance of the national interest during the emergency, within the meaning of those words as used in the Act, I venture to hope that if his case is re-considered, weight would be given to the consideration of the fact that practically all the men whom he is training are being prepared for service in the common cause in which the United States and the Allies are now engaged.

I trust I am not asking too much of you when I request that you will kindly transmit this statement to the proper authorities.

With much respect, I am, Yours sincerely,

President.

CHARLES E. HUGHES
CHAIRMAN

GEORGE L. INGRAHAM
VICE-CHAIRMAN

EDWIN L. GARVIN
SECRETARY

WM. IVES WASHBURN
ASST. SEC'Y

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WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL
DISTRICT BOARD FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK
ROOM 323 FEDERAL BUILDING
(OLD POST OFFICE BLDG.)

NEW YORK, N. Y., November 20, 1917.

President Robert A. Falconer,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Canada.

My dear President Falconer:

Your letter of November 19th is received.

The appeal in the case of Dr. Baumann will be transmitted to the President. It is greatly regretted that the Board cannot take different action, but you will understand that it is bound by the Law and Regulations.

With high regard, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Charles E. Hughes
Chairman.